

5 Weather
20° Air tonight, low in
60° Sun tomorrow,
in 40s.

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'An 'savagery' is revealed

Associated Press

The 52 American hostages have told of brutal treatment by their captors, and former President Carter has accused the Iranians of "unbelievable acts of criminal savagery."

Mr. Carter, in Plains, Ga., after returning from West Berlin, Germany and greeting the returned Americans, said today the 52 were "forced one by one," to run the gauntlet of jeers and kicks before being permitted to leave Iran for freedom.

The inhumanity included beatings, strip searches, solitary confinement, a mock execution and Russian roulette.

Mr. Carter called the Iranian acts described by some of the former hostages the work "of animals."

He said one of the hostages told him he had been "kicked on the way to the airport but then added, 'Well, that's all in the past.'

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"They tried to convince them we were the villains, that we had robbed and cheated the Iranian people for 25 years," Mr. Carter said.

"And even after month after month, they [the Iranians] still took pleasure in abusing them psychologically, even physically."

The former president called this "savagery against absolutely innocent hostages."

"Even when the hostages were being loaded on the plane, they carried them to a fairly distant point by bus and made them walk through a gauntlet, one by one, without even the protection of the whole group. Jeering and sometimes even kicking to try to deter the Americans leaving Iran," Mr. Carter said.

Malcolm Kalp, an economic adviser accused of being a CIA agent by his captors, told his family in a telephone call he was beaten and spent 374 days in solitary confinement because he repeatedly tried to escape.

Lisa Kalp, 17, the ex-hostage's daughter, said from Massachusetts that he was "full of hatred and hostility toward them [his captors] right now."

Kalp's 12-year-old son, Andy, was so excited about his father's release that the boy broke out in hives.

Michael J. Metrinko, a political officer from Olyphant, Pa., said he was held in solitary for 8½ months, and Mohamed C. Kennedy Jr., the economic counselor from Washington, said he and others were "lined up in their underwear, guns to their heads, for a mock execution."

Marine Sgt. Johnny McKeel told his parents in Balch Springs, Texas, that an Iranian guard

knocked out his tooth and an interrogator said his mother had died. He said he was told if he wanted to go to the funeral he had to give the Iranians information, but that all he gave was his name, rank and serial number.

After talking with her son, Wynona McKeel lashed out at the captors. "They're stupid, barbaric people. They're fanatics... They say they're religious, but they don't worship the same God I do," she said angrily.

Asked if their son had any special requests for food when he returns home, Mrs. McKeel said he had told her, "Mum, don't cook any lamb or rice."

Elizabeth Montagne, a secretary freed with four other women and eight black hostages three weeks after the embassy takeover, said in the United States that the militants forced her to play Russian roulette in an attempt to get infor-

mation. Richard Queen, a consul freed in July because he was suffering from multiple sclerosis, said he and others were held nearly five months in a windowless warehouse basement, and that during a "Gestapo raid" armed guards in white masks stripped them to their underclothes and searched them.

The 52 remaining hostages were freed Tuesday, 444 days after their capture, and flown to West Germany. Mr. Carter, whose administration negotiated their release in the final days of his presidency, spent 30 minutes with them yesterday as a special envoy from President Reagan. In an airport statement before flying back to the United States, he said:

"Our Americans in Iran were mistreated much worse than previously revealed. The desp-

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Carter accuses Iranian captors of acts of 'savagery'

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cable acts of barbarism which were perpetrated

on our people by Iran can never be condoned. Iran, in my judgment, and the people responsible in Iran for this criminal act ought to be condemned by all law-loving decent people of the world. It's been an abominable circumstance that will never be forgotten."

50 men and two women spent their first

days of freedom making telephone calls home,

"telling stories," as Martine

Seton E. Lewis of Homer, Ill, put it. Some

came out on the balconies of the third-floor wing of the Air Force hospital here, enjoyed the spar-

king sunshine and chatted with hospital person-

nel.

The "decompression" process was well under way, a State Department spokesman reported.

Doctors were examining the returnees. Psy-

chologists met with them to assess any mental

damage done by the treatment given them and

their readjustment needs. Officials were discuss-

ing their experience with them.

There was no word yet when they would be

sent on to the United States for the long-awaited

reunions with their anxious families. State De-

partment spokesman Jack Cunon said yester-

day they would remain in West Berlin for "per-

haps several days" but were free to leave when-

ever they wished. But he said they were advised

to delay their departure.

One relative ignored the government's urging

that the families not come to West Germany so

as not to "interfere with the reparation

process. Alyssa Keough of South Burlington, Vt.

19-year-old daughter of the superintendent of the

Tellico American School, arrived by plane from

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